

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) An apparatus for verifying verbal utterances, said apparatus comprising:

a target password sentence generator which generates at least one target password sentence;

an acceptance arrangement which compares text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password sentence and which accepts or rejects the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

a decoder which transforms a verbal utterance into decoded text for being compared to the at least one target password sentence in said acceptance arrangement; and

a finite state grammar generator which generates a finite state grammar to be employed by said decoder;

said decoder being adapted to transform a verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.

**4. (Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said decoder is adapted to transform a verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to undertake a forced alignment of the verbal utterance.

**5. (Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said finite state grammar generator includes a first generator for generating a first part of a finite state grammar and a second generator for generating a second part of a finite state grammar.

**6. (Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein:

    said first generator is adapted to generate a first part of a finite state grammar that includes at least a target password sentence; and

    said second generator is adapted to generate a second part of a finite state grammar that includes competing decoding paths of the target password sentence.

**7. (Previously Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said target password sentence generator is adapted to accept prompted text corresponding to at least one password.

**8. (Previously Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said target password sentence generator is adapted to automatically generate at least one password as a baseform that is derived from an acoustic enrollment.

9. **(Previously Amended)** The apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said acceptance arrangement is adapted to derive a match score based on comparing text based on a verbal utterance to the at least one target password sentence and to base acceptance or rejection of the verbal utterance on the match score.

10. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said acceptance arrangement is adapted to derive a match score via dynamic pattern matching.

11. **(Original)** The apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said acceptance arrangement is adapted to derive a match score via a combination of dynamic pattern matching and acoustic scoring.

12. **(Cancelled)**

13. **(Cancelled)**

14. **(Previously Amended)** A method of verifying verbal utterances, said method comprising:

generating at least one target password sentence;

comparing text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password sentence;

accepting or rejecting the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text;

said comparing step comprising comparing the decoded text to the at least one target password sentence; and

generating a finite state grammar;

said transforming step comprising transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.

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15. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text comprises employing the finite state grammar to undertake a forced alignment of the verbal utterance.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of generating a finite state grammar comprises generating a first part of the finite state grammar and a second part of the finite state grammar.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 16, wherein:

said step of generating the first part of the finite state grammar comprises the inclusion of the at least one target password sentence; and

said step of generating the second part of the finite state grammar comprises the inclusion of competing decoding paths of the at least one target password sentence.

18. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of generating at least one target password sentence comprises accepting prompted text.

19. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of generating at least one target password sentence comprises automatically generating a baseform derived from an acoustic enrollment.

20. (Previously Amended) The method according to Claim 14, wherein said step of accepting or rejecting comprises deriving a match score based on comparing text based on the verbal utterance to the at least one target password sentence and to base acceptance or rejection of the verbal utterance on the match score.

21. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said step of deriving a match score comprises deriving a match score via dynamic pattern matching.

22. (Original) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said step of deriving a match score comprises deriving a match score via a combination of dynamic pattern matching and acoustic scoring.

23. (Previously Amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for verifying verbal utterances, said method comprising:

generating at least one target password sentence;

comparing text based on a verbal utterance to at least one target password

sentence;

accepting or rejecting the verbal utterance based on its comparison to the at least one target password sentence;

transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text;

said comparing step comprising comparing the decoded text to the at least one target password sentence; and

generating a finite state grammar;

said transforming step comprising transforming the verbal utterance into decoded text via employing the finite state grammar to modify the verbal utterance.